

A portrait of Patricia Steur, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair and green eyes, looking directly at the camera. She has a tattoo on her left shoulder featuring a circular design with red and blue patterns. She is holding a bouquet of tulips in various colors: orange, purple, white, and red. The background is a bright blue sky with soft white clouds.

DUTCH BEAUTY

PATRICIA STEUR

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PASSION AND AWARENESS

Portengensebrug 2010

I commend Patricia Steur for capturing these one hundred powerful women in her new publication, 'Dutch Beauty'.

In these photographs, Patricia demonstrates beautifully that people are indeed her great passion.

I am so happy she has decided that proceeds from this publication will go towards supporting the activities of the Medical Knowledge Institute (MKI), of which she is a proud Goodwill Ambassador, and I a member of their International Board of Advisors.

MKI empowers local women to take responsibility for their own health, that of their family and their community through public health education. 'Dutch Beauty' will help to promote MKI's philosophy that prevention of many curable diseases is only possible through education.

I thank you, dear Patricia, for your dedication in portraying these strong women, all shining examples of God's creation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Desmond M. Tutu', followed by a large, stylized flourish or underline.

The Most Reverend Desmond M. Tutu, OMSG DD FKC
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Someone may lack beauty in the eyes of many, yet their lover will see the most beautiful person in the world. Love reveals true beauty. Perhaps that is why Patricia Steur is such an exceptional photographer. She is able to capture the beauty of any person in her work, because she sincerely loves people. It is a love I am keen to reciprocate. When I met Patricia over twenty years ago, it was the beginning of a very close friendship that I cherish and that has only grown over time.

Patricia's work captures that which you thought was invisible. Being photographed by her is to admire her mastery and dedication. The way she observes, perceiving details unseen to others, pressing the shutter at just the right moment ... you can only be in awe of the result and overcome with feelings of joy and pride as well as humility. You can't possibly be as beautiful as that, can you? Yes, you can be. In her eyes ... the eyes of someone who loves you.

The images contained in this rich collection speak volumes. Over one hundred 'Dutch Beauties' were caught in the light of Patricia's jade green eyes. These strong women shine in the glow of her warm personality, in vibrant colours, photographed with a keen eye, passion, respect and, above all, with love.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but in this case, the beholder herself is the greatest beauty of them all. That is why one photograph is missing from this fine collection: one of Patricia Steur herself. It should have been right here on this page and without doubt, compared to all the great portraits in this book, it would have been my favourite.

Manuëla Kemp



Ebbie Tam Always look on the bright side.



Amanda Ooms Don't hesitate if you don't want to. Be strong, be good, be you, as only you can.





Chantal Janzen *It's the journey that matters, not the destination.*







Loes Luca *I'm just a clown filled with grief. No flowers for me. I'd rather have the money.*







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AUTOBEDRIJF v.d. LINDEN - v. SELM KOCKENGEN ☎ 0346-241552





Petra Leene *To be the change you want to see in the world, you don't have to be loud. You don't have to be eloquent. You don't have to be elected. You don't even have to be particularly smart or well educated. You do, however, have to be committed.*



Isa Hoes 'Love is gentle as a rose ... let love rule' - Lenny Kravitz



Mirjam van der Loo *Nothing is impossible. Believe in it, spread your wings and fly!*



Fabienne de Vries 'Always be a first class version of yourself instead of a second class one of someone else' - Princess Diana





Ellen Evers *To change the world, you must begin with yourself.*





Nanda Roep *You're never fully dressed without a smile.*



Marjan Hopman *The beginning of a journey to real beauty is ageless access to health.*



Babet Cremer Art is my first flame. My second is the master who fuels it.





Ellen ten Damme *Do you dare to: Do what you want to do? Say what you want to say? Be who you want to be? “Durf jij?!”*



Guusje Nederhorst





Candy Dulfer *Stay clear of people who say they know the answer, stay close to those who are still searching.*











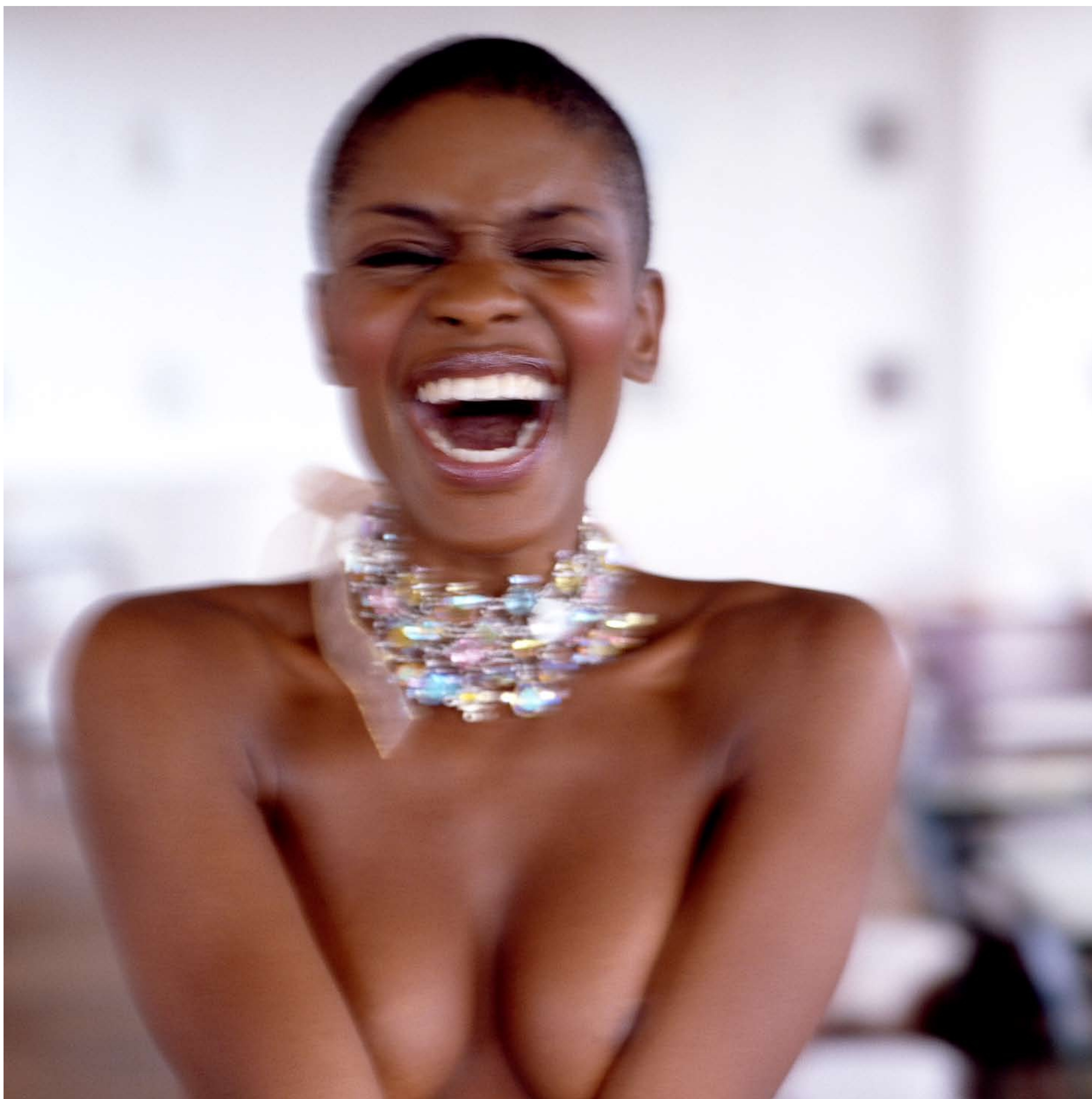


Sandra Hay *Be positive and you can rule the world.*





Michele Deiters & Bibi van der Velden *Two souls, spiritually connected, creating synergy and concepts beyond generations. Confronting and bridging time by sculpting together.*



Sylvana Simons *I go through life with a smile. Like a fire, it warms up every space; like a flame it lights up every room and it always, always causes another smile.*



Marit van Bohemen *Life always seems logical in retrospect. Looking back, I understand the reasons and the sense of events in my life and I'm at peace with them. Almost always, I find these experiences have enriched me.*





Mandy Huydts *Happiness is living without judging; learning to let go.*





Dafne Westerhof Be who you are. Do what you have to do. Then the rest will follow.





Marlies Dekkers *Unlock the doors to your soul, throw open the windows of your mind. Discover the world of you.*





Coco de Meyere *We can only keep what we have by giving it away.*





Mieke van der Weij





Yby Potlatch *If love is real, you'll feel it in your heart.*







Suzanne Muller *Rhythm is the beat of love.*



Jerney Kaagman *Don't take on more than you can handle. The more balanced you are, the better you can help someone else.*



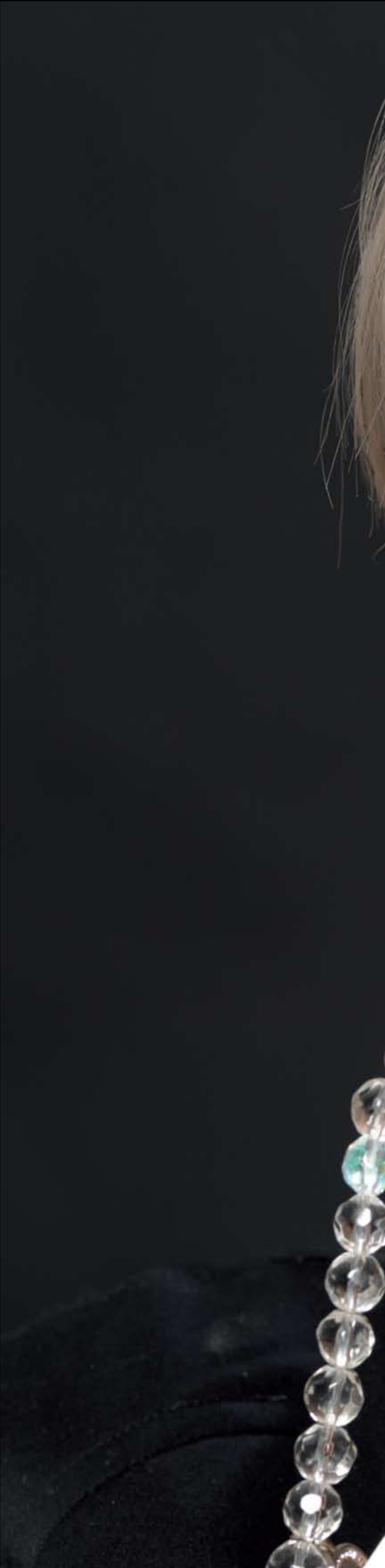
Nina Graziosi *Whatever you think, think the opposite.*





Hedy d'Ancona

The liberation of women, that was and is the drive for my work as an active politician and as a political activist. After all those years the position of women in the Western part of the world has improved; they got equal rights and - in most cases - the control over their own bodies. But in the remaining part of the world, women are still “the nigger”. Human rights don’t apply to them. Religion and tradition confirm the superiority of men. Gradually, consciousness is rising that development only succeeds if we start with these women. Education, health care, information about their rights. If we change their lives, we change the world! That’s why I support мкп’s work with all my heart.









Nurlaila Karim Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it is called the present.



Kathleen Ferrier *A woman who is conscious of her strength is a lamp for the nation.*



Jet Sol 'I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief.' - G. Spence



Wilma Veen *Every human being is worthy of good health care. That is why I passionately support the magnificent work of MKI as its ambassador.*



Petra Heyboer *Be not the life between birth and death. Be the mythology.*





Brigitte Kaandorp *The average man is more interested in a woman who is interested in him, than he is in a woman with beautiful legs.*





Maroeska Metz *Without friendship, I would no longer exist.*



Manüela Kemp *If you want to feel what heaven is about, you have to hit rock bottom first.*





Els Steur *Help someone in need. It's the shortest road to your own happiness.*





Ans Markus *I love to look at the inside knowing everybody is talking about the outside.*





Sheila de Vries *A woman always has to be young and beautiful. But I say: Age is a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!*





Susan Smit *'This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.'* William Shakespeare





Margriet Sitskoorn *The combination of knowledge, love and dreams can make the past clear, the present shine and the future bright.*



Astrid Engels *Happiness: something to love, something to do, something to hope for.*



Eveline Hakvoort *I am curious to learn and privileged to live in freedom. I hope I can say at the end of my life: I have tried to be there for others, to be free of attachment, to handle my disturbing emotions, to be kind and gentle and that as a result, I became a happier person.*



Heleen van Royen *Don't wait for adventure to happen. Make it happen. Be brave. Be creative. Be willing to work your ass off.*
Last but not least: be careful what you wish for. Fame and fortune are powerful drugs. Once you've tasted them, you might get a craving for more and more.



Jasmine Sendar *Whatever crosses my path, good or bad, I embrace it! Cause it's there for a reason and for me to turn the bad into something good and the good into something better!*



Angela Groothuizen *I believe in all projects for and by women. A true social change can be made that way and everyone around them will benefit.*





Marion Bloem *I love life like I love my work, my family, my granddaughters, my sisters, my friends, untrodden paths, heavy climbs, sincerity and craziness.*





Mariska van Kolck *Real beauty, power and personality all come from inside.*



Monique van de Ven *Wise is the woman who fortifies her life with friendships.*



Femke Halsema





Fatima Moreiro de Melo *Dare to rely on your instincts!*



Trijntje Oosterhuis *'Your being small doesn't serve this world'* - Nelson Mandela





Sharon den Adel To transform feelings and thoughts into music through words and vocal sound, is to me the most liberating way to express myself emotionally. This passion is essential to my happiness, to being who I am.











Mariska Hulscher *If you change nothing, nothing will ever change.*





Chazia Mourali 'Il est bon de suivre sa pente, pourvu que ce soit en montant.' - André Gide









Barbara Plugge *A delightful life is the best revenge.*



Barbara Karel *One Love*.



Beatrijs Smulders *The sound of your voice holds the key to countless worlds.*



Wendy van Dijk *Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.*



Rosanna Kluivert *The richness I achieve comes from nature, the source of my inspiration.*





Sigrid Markus Poor is the man whose pleasures depend on the permission of another.







Bella Hay 'Music is my religion' - Jimi Hendrix.





Hassan's Angels - Inci Pamuk *To know me is to love me.*





Jacqueline en Santje (Sanjac) *Design your own life and dare to dream.*





Penney de Jager *Winners do things, losers don't.*







Marijke Helwegen *All women are looking for the same things: to be treated with respect, to be happy and to be recognised by doing what they are good at.*



Patty Brard *It's a dog's life.*





Hadassah de Boer *Courage*





DO To love unconditionally is to see true beauty.





Jane Worthington *For me, good design is simply making my dreams those of other people.*



Yolanda Eijpe *Life is too beautiful to summarise in one sentence.*



Yolanda Soniga *Life is what you make it ... Joyful moments ... and beautiful shoes.*



Quinty Trustfull *Life is beautiful. Live life to the fullest, so that you can never say: I wish I had ...*







Touriya Haoud







Lucia Rijker *You are looking for love ...*







Lils Mackintosh *You can't shake hands with a clenched fist.*





Roos Prommenschenkel *Being disabled is just one aspect of who one is. There is so much more. My condition taught me that I'm in charge of my own life. There is good and bad in everyone's life, but ultimately, the challenge of how to deal with it is entirely up to oneself.*



Willemijn Verloop *Dream out loud!*



Minke Mooijweer *The one important thing I have learned over the years is the difference between taking one's work seriously and taking oneself seriously. The first is imperative and the second is disastrous.*



Georgine Kwakije Giving scholarships to African Children and building a hospital in Ghana gives me a purpose in life; don't hesitate to live your dreams!



Gisèle d'Ailly When I succeed in making a realistic portrait, I'm radiant with joy. Portraits are reality wrapped in mystery. It's as if they take over the show.









Liesbeth Steur *No guts, no glory.*



First and foremost, I want to thank all the Dutch beauties who grace these pages.
I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to photograph these strong,
passionate and beautiful women. It was an unforgettable experience.

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LOVE IS THE ONLY MAGIC
From the poem Magic
“Voodoo Cave Writings for Cosmic Space Babies”
Poems and Drawings E.H.Roelfzema

And last but no way least

ERIK HAZELHOFF ROELFZEMA
My beloved late husband, a great lover of beauty, to whom I dedicate this book.

Love,
Patricia Steur

